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Ueber Fixation im Dämmerungssehen. RICHARD SIMON. *Zeitschr. für Psych. u. Physiol. d. Sinnesorgane.* Bd. 36, 1904. S. 186–193.

The author finds that each eye has a definite, habitual way of fixing peripherally a small point in a black field, which is so faintly illuminated as to be invisible on the fovea, although visible on the surrounding region. Thus in one subject the left eye regularly fixed the stimulus by means of a point directly over the fovea, while the right eye received the stimulation on a point above and to the temporal side of the fovea. When the eyes came to these positions involuntarily there was no 'feeling of fixation'; but it was possible voluntarily to fix the faint stimulus in several peripheral positions, and in that case also there was no more 'feeling of fixation' than there is 'when the unadapted eye sees an object in indirect vision.' The degree of adaptation of the eye affects the position of fixation which it automatically assumes; the unadapted eye comes to lie so that the faint stimulus falls several degrees away from the fovea, but with increasing adaptation this point approaches the fovea. Intensity of stimulus (always below the foveal threshold) has the same effect as adaptation.

The foveally invisible dot can not be fixed perfectly. "True nystagmus is not present; but a certain quivering of the object fixed easily happens, and this in all probability depends on slight involuntary eye movements, to be explained because it is much harder to maintain perfect fixation on parafoveal points of the retina than on the fovea." Such hyperphorias of the eyes when the field is dimly illuminated considerably interfere with the stereoscopic vision that Nagel has shown to be possible for the adapted eyes, and with illuminations under the foveal threshold.

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Zur Kenntnis des zentralen Sehaktes. SIGMUND EXNER. *Zeitschrift für Psychologie und Physiologie der Sinnesorgane,* Bd. 36, 1904. S. 194–212.

'The occasion for this is offered by the new and valuable discoveries of Hitzig, and a related series of experimental results recently obtained by Shinkichi Imamura.' If in the dog all the visual fibres that go to the occipital lobe of one side are destroyed, there results a double homonymous hemiamblyopia of the same side of the visual field; this may be demonstrated by the 'sausage perimeter,' in which the animal standing before a row of sausages consents to eat all that he sees. Almost the same visual disturbance is brought about by extirpating a portion of the cortex in the motor (frontal) region. Now E. Hitzig found in 1900 that when a dog had recovered from the hemiamblyopia due to the occipital operation, the frontal operation would produce no renewal of the amblyopia; and conversely, if most of the motor region was first removed, and, after the animal had recovered, a part of the occipital, the amblyopia would not reappear. 'The extirpation of the motor cortical area had apparently made the animal immune to any hemiamblyopia that might be expected from a lesion of the visual lobes of the same side.' But if the first operation was in the occipital lobe of one side and the second in the same region of the other side, the hemiamblyopia of the first operation would be reestablished by the second. H. Munk contested Hitzig's results, but Imamura has now confirmed them.

Exner proposes, in explanation of these phenomena, that, after extirpation of the fibres to the occipital lobe, fibres of the corpus callosum supply the requisite afferent currents from the other side of the brain. This would particularly well explain the return of amblyopia after operation of the second occipital lobe. The suggestion is in so far confirmed that Imamura found that if, after an animal had recovered from an operation on one visual lobe, he then severed the callosal fibres, the amblyopia returned *and was now permanent.* But Exner's explanation seems not to account for the fact that, after recovery from operation of the motor or visual region, an operation of the other of those regions (on the same side) brought no return of the disturbance to vision. The paper includes minor details, specially regarding alternating hemiamblyopia, and an instructive discussion of the physiology of consciousness—this last quite in the vein of the venerable author's '*Entwurf.*'

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JOURNALS AND NEW BOOKS

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY. January, 1905, Vol. 16, No. 1. *The Psychology of Dreams* (pp. 1–34): J. R. JEWELL. – A questionnaire study based on replies from 800 normal-school students and some dream diaries, in which the replies and the literature on dreams are well used. Sixteen deductions are given; one is indicative: 'There is no mode of functioning of the mind in the waking state that may not take place during sleep.' *Psychology of Æsthetics* (pp. 35–118): L. J. MARTIN. – This article is a report of some 'experimental prospecting in the field of the comic.' Ingenious modifications of some of the well-known psycho-physical methods are used to secure effects of comic pictures on five or six observers. A questionary was also used with these same observers and a report of their choice of historical theories of the comic is given. *Primitive Hearing and Hearing-words* (pp. 119–130): A. F. CHAMBERLIN. – A brief statement of the acuteness of hearing among primitive peoples, and of the words used in various languages to describe the phenomena of hearing. *Memory of a Complex Skillful Act* (pp. 131–133): E. J. SWIFT. – After two years of intermission two subjects take up a former practice exercise to determine the efficiency of skill after the long rest. The results show no appreciable loss of skill and the subjects report only a temporary fatigue as interfering with the execution of the series of ball-tossing. *Literature. Notes.*